

For Immediate Release
September 5, 2006

City Partners with Top Boston Law Firms to Help Elderly

Boston, Mass. -- In an ongoing effort to respond to the unmet legal needs of the city's elderly, Mayor Tomas M. Menino is partnering with top Boston law firms Goodwin Procter LLP and Cohen & Oalican, LLP for an estate-planning seminar on Friday, September 8, 2006.

Eliza Greenberg, Commissioner of the City of Boston Commission on Affairs of the Elderly, stated, "Many of the city's elders cannot afford quality legal help and are having difficulty hanging on to what they have worked hard for. So, we have partnered with these law firms to help respond to this need."

On September 8th, during the Mayor's Monthly Seniors Advisory Council meeting, Jennifer Locke of Goodwin Procter LLP and Steven M. Cohen of Cohen & Oalican, LLP, will present a legal seminar focused on estate planning. Approximately one hundred seniors, who represent the many neighborhoods in Boston, will attend this free legal seminar. The seminar will address such issues as wills and trusts, Medicaid and nursing home planning, and appointing agents to handle medical and financial affairs.

Questions that will be answered at the seminar include: Do I need a will? What will happen to my home if I go into a nursing home? How can I pay for nursing home care? Can I give assets to my children? Who will make medical decisions for me or pay my bills if I become incapacitated? What is a living will? Seniors who attend the seminar will be given packages of information prepared by the law firms.

Goodwin Procter is one of the nation's leading law firms with 650 attorneys. The Firm's core areas of practice are Corporate, Litigation and Real-Estate, with specialized areas of focus that include private equity, technology companies, financial services, REITs and real-estate capital markets, intellectual property and products liability. Goodwin Procter is headquartered in Boston, with offices in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Washington D.C. Jennifer Locke has been with the firm since 1992 and focuses her practice in the areas of estate planning and probate litigation.

Cohen & Oalican provides a broad range of legal and support services to older and disabled clients and their families. This focus enables the firm to be particularly sensitive to the stresses that these individuals and families confront on a daily basis, which are compounded by the American legal and health care systems. Steve Cohen, a founding partner of the firm, is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and specializes in elder law issues.

For more information on this program, or the many other services the Elderly Commission offers, call 617-635-4366 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.